

**APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): August 13, 2015

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Sacramento District, Copper Mountain Solar Project, SPK-2015-00716-SG

C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

State: **Nevada** County/parish/borough: **Clark** City: **Boulder City**
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. **35.7881°**, Long. **-114.9789°**
Universal Transverse Mercator: **11 682647.6 3962332.08**

Name of nearest waterbody: **El Dorado Dry Lake**

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: **NA**

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): **Ivanpah-Pahrump Valleys, 16060015**

Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.

Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form:

D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: **August 13, 2015**

Field Determination. Date(s):

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required]

Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.

Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **Are no** "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]

1. Waters of the U.S.

a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):¹

TNWs, including territorial seas

Wetlands adjacent to TNWs

Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Impoundments of jurisdictional waters

Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:

Non-wetland waters: linear feet, wide, and/or acres.

Wetlands: acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: **Pick List**

Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: The proposed project is located in Eldorado Valley, located south of Henderson, Nevada. This 530 square mile area is an intrastate hydrologic basin and is isolated from TNWs by the McCullough Range on the west, the Eldorado Mountains on the east, the Highland Range on the south, and the Black Hills and River Mountains on the north. Several ephemeral washes traverse the project site, runoff from which drains into Dry Lake which does exhibit an ordinary high-water mark. However, these hydrographic features do not cross state lines and are not used for interstate commerce. The drainages associated with the El Dorado Valley Dry Lake were determined to be non-jurisdictional based on a lack of interstate

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

commerce and any connection to traditional navigable waters. Several past determinations have been made in this area, Several of the upstream sections were submitted to EPA and HQ under SPK-2009-0045. In addition, SPK-2010-0396 also addressed jurisdiction within the El Dorado Valley and was also determined to be non-jurisdictional.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

- A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs: Not applicable**
- B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY): Not applicable**
- C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION: Not applicable**
- D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**
 - 1. **TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands.** Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area: **Not applicable**
 - 2. **RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.** **Not applicable**
 - 3. **Non-RPWs⁴ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.** **Not applicable**
 - 4. **Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.** **Not applicable**
 - 5. **Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.** **Not applicable**
 - 6. **Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.** **Not applicable**
 - 7. **Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.** **Not applicable**
- E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Not applicable**
- F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**
 - If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.
 - Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 - Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
 - Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:
 - Other: (explain, if not covered above): This is a dry lake bed and associated washes that do not cross or serve as state boundaries. This area does not meet the criteria for a "wetland" under the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate regional supplements. It is unlikely that it would have been considered jurisdictional under the MBR because of its lack of food chain support/biological inputs and lack of organic matter. The dry lake bed is a "closed hydrologic system".**

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
- Wetlands: acres.

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, wide.
- Lakes/ponds: acres.
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
- Wetlands: acres.

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

⁴See Footnote # 3.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
- Corps navigable waters' study:
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: **1:24K; NV-BOULDER CITY SW**
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name:
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):
or Other (Name & Date):
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: **2009-0045, May 29, 2009, SPK-2010-0396, June 29, 2010; SPK-2010-0252 - Searchlight Wind Energy.**
- Applicable/supporting case law:
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
- Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

The proposed project is located in Eldorado Valley, located south of Henderson, Nevada. This 530 square mile area is an intrastate hydrologic basin and is isolated from TNWs by the McCullough Range on the west, the Eldorado Mountains on the east, the Highland Range on the south, and the Black Hills and River Mountains on the north. Several ephemeral washes traverse the project site, runoff from which drains into Dry Lake which does exhibit an ordinary high-water mark. However, these hydrographic features do not cross state lines and are not used for interstate commerce. The drainages associated with the El Dorado Valley Dry Lake were determined to be non-jurisdictional based on a lack of interstate commerce and any connection to traditional navigable waters. Several past determinations have been made in this area, Several of the upstream sections were submitted to EPA and HQ under SPK-2009-0045. In addition, SPK-2010-0396 also addressed jurisdiction within the El Dorado Valley and was also determined to be non-jurisdictional.